517. L. 16.

DIRECTIONS OF THE LORDS and COMMONS Assembled in PARLIAMENT:

After advice had with the Assembly of Divines, for the electing and chooſing of RULING-ELDERS in all the Congregations, and in the Claſſicall Aſſemblies for the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and the ſeverall Counties of the Kingdom:

For the ſpeedy ſetling of the Presbyteriall-Government.

Die Martis 19. Auguſt 1645.

ORdered by the Lords Aſſembled in Parliament, That theſe Directions for electing of Elders in particular Congregations and Claſſicall Aſſemblies, be forthwith printed and publiſhed.

Jo. Brown Cler. Parliamentorum.

Imprinted at London for *John Wright* at the Kings Head in the old Bayley. 1645.

Die Martis, 19 Auguſti. 1645.

DIRECTIONS
FOR THE
Election of Elders.

1

THat the Ruling Elders of a Parochiall and congregationall Elderſhip ſhall be choſen by the ſeverall Miniſters, and members of their Congregation reſpectively, being ſuch as have taken the Nationall Covenant, and are not perſons under age, nor ſervants that have no families.

2. That notice of ſuch election, and of the day when it ſhall be given by the Miniſter in the publique aſſemby the next Lords day but one before, and on that ſaid Lords day a Sermon be preached preparatory to that weighty buſineſſe.

3 That no man be choſen for a Ruling-Elder but onely for one Congregation, and that in the place where his moſt ſetled dwelling and imployment doth lie.

4. That it ſhall be lawfull for the Congregation reſpectively, or any other perſons to exhibite exceptions againſt any perſon elected as aforeſaid, touching the right of his election, or touching matter of ignorance, or ſcandall, hereafter mentioned, within fourteene dayes next after the ſaid election to ſuch perſons, Miniſters, and others, as ſhall be appointed by Authority of Parliament, to receive the ſaid exceptions, which ſaid perſons ſhall have power to receive, heare, and determine all complaints againſt any Elder of ignorance and ſcandall, within the diſcription of ignorance and ſcandall hereafter mentioned.

And ſhall have power to approve the perſon ſo elected, in caſe no juſt exception, as aforeſaid ſhall be proved againſt him. But if he ſhall upon juſt proofe be found ignorant or ſcandalous, as aforeſaid, then to remove him. And if any of the ſaid Elders ſhall be adjudged to be removed, as aforeſaid, then another ſhall be choſen in his place as aforeſaid.

5. That

5. That ſuch ſhall be choſen for Ruling Elders as are men of good underſtanding in matters of Religion, ſound in the faith, prudent, diſcreet, grave, and of unblameable converſation. And willing to undergoe the ſaid Office.

6. That all pariſhes and places whatſoever, (as well priviledged places, and exempt juriſdi-ctions, as others) be brought under the govern-ment of Congregationall, Claſsicall, Provinciall, and Nationall Aſſemblies. Provided, that the Chappels or places in the houſes of the Peers of this Realme ſhall continue free for the exerciſe of Divine duties to be performed according to the Directory.

7. That the Chappell of the Rolles, the two Serjants Innes, and the foure Innes of Court, ſhall be each of them a Congregationall Preſ-bytery within themſelves, and make a Claſſicall Presbytery in the whole.

8. That the Province of London ſhall be di-vided into twelve Claſsicall Elderſhips acco-ding to the diſtributions hereafter following:

The firſt Claſſis to containe:

ALhallowes Breadſtreet,
Andrewes Wardrope,
Anne BlackFriers,
Auſtins Pariſh,
Bennet.

Bennet Pauls wharfe,
Faiths,
Gregories,
John Evangeliſt,
Margaret Moſes,
Martin Ludgate,
Mary Aldermary,
Mary le Bow,
Matthew Fridayſtreet,
Mildreds Breadſtreet,
Pauls,
Peters Pauls wharfe.

The ſecond Claſſis to containe :

Anthomes vulgo Anthelms.
Bennet Sherehogge,
James Garlickhithe,
John Baptiſts,
Martin in the Vintry,
Mary Magdalen old fiſhſtreete,
Mary Somerſet,
Mary Mounthaunt vulgo Mounthaw,
Michael Queene Hithe,
Michael Royall,
Nicholas old Abby,
Nicholas Olives,
Pancret Soperlane,
Thomas Apoſtle,
Trinity Pariſh.

The third Caſſis to containe :

Alhallowes the greater,
Alhallowes the leſſe,
Alhallowes Lumberſtreet,
Edmunds Lumberſtreet,
Laurence Pountney,
Mary Abchurch,
Mary Bothaw,
Mary Woolchurch,
Mary Woolnoth,
Nicholas Aron,
Stephens in Walbrook,
Swithens.

The

The fourth Classis to containe:

Andrew Hubbert,
Bennet Grace-church,
Buttolph Billingsgate,
Clements in Eastcheape,
Dionis Backchurch,
George Buttolph-lane,
Leonard in Eastcheape,
Magnus,
Margaret New-fish street,
Martin Orgars,
Maryhill,
Michael Crookedlane,
Michael Cornhill,
Peters Cornhill.

The fifth Classis to containe:

Anne Aldersgate,
Buttolph Aldersgate,
Brides,
Bridewell,
Christchurch,
John Zachary,
Leonard Fosterlane,
Mary Staynings,
Michael in the Corne, vulgo in the Querne,
Olaves Silverstreet,
Peters Cheape,
Pedast, alias Fosters.

The sixth Classis to containe:

Albanes Woodstreet,
Alhallowes Honi-lane
Alphage,
Giles Creeplegate,
James Chappell,
Laurence in the Jury,
Martin in Fremongerlane,
Mary Aldermanbury,
Marymaudlins Milk-street,
Mary Colechurch,
Michael in Woodstreet,
Mildred in the Poultry,
Olives in the Jewry.

The

The seventh Classis to containe :

Alhallowes by the Wall,
Bartholmew Exchange,
Bennet Fynck,
Buttolph Bishopsgate,
Christophers,
Margaret Lothbury,
Michael Bashinshaw.
Peter Poore,
Stevens Colemanstreet.

The eight Classis to containe :

Andrew Undershaft.
Buttolph Algate,
Ethelburge,
Hackney,
Hellens,
James Duke-place,
Katherine Cree-Church,
Leonard Shoreditch,
Martins Oteswich, vulgo Outwich.
Mary Newington, alias Soke Newington.

The ninth Classis to containe :

Alhallowes Barkin,
Alhallowes Stanings,
Dunstans in the East,
Gabriel Fenchurch,
Katherine Coleman,
Katherine Tower,
Margaret Pattons,
Olaves Hartstreet,
Peters in the Tower,
Stepney,
Trinity Minories,
Wapping,
Whitechappell.

The

The tenth Classis to containe:

George Southwarke,	*Newington Buts,*
Lambeth,	*Olives Southwarke,*
Mary Magdalen,	*Rotherhithe vulgo Redriff*
Bermondsey,	*Thomas Hospitall,*
Mary Overs,	*Thomas Southwarke,*

The eleventh Classis to containe:

Clements Danes,	*Newchurch,*
Giles in the Fields,	*Peters Westminster,*
Knightsbridge,	*Pauls chappell in Covent*
Margaret Westminster,	*Garden.*
Martins in the Fields.	

The twelfth Classis to containe:

Andrew Holborne,	*Dunstones in the West,*
Bartholmew the greater,	*James Clarkenwell,*
Bartholmew the lesse,	*Mary Islington,*
Charterhouse,	*Sepulchers.*

9. That all the severall Parishes and Places within the Cities of London and Westminster, and the parts adjacent, according as they are distinguished into twelve severall Classis, shall

be the extent and bounds of the province of London.

Concerning the members of the Classicall and Congregationall Assemblies in the severall Counties.

THat in the severall Counties certaine persons, Ministers, and others, shall be appointed by authority of Parliament, who shall consider how their severall Counties respectively may be most conveniently divided into distinct classicall Presbyteries, and what Ministers and others are fit to be of each Classis. And they shall accordingly make such division, and nomination of persons for each classicall Presbytery, which Divisions, and persons so named for every Division shall be certified up to the Parliament. That the Chanchellors, Vice-chancellors, and heads of the Universities shall consider how the Colledges may be most conveniently put into classicall Presbyteries, and doe certifie the same up unto the Parliament.

And the said severall Classis respectively being approved by Parliament within their severall Precincts shall have power to constitute Congregationall Elderships where a competent number of persons so qualified for Elders, as afore-

foreſaid, ſhall be found. And where no perſons ſhall be found fit to be Elders, as aforeſaid, then that Congregation ſhall be immediately under the Claſſicall Presbytery, untill that congregation ſhall be enabled with members fit to be Elders, as aforeſaid.

The congregationall Aſſembly ſhall meet once every weeke, and oftner if occaſion ſhall ſerve.

The claſſicall Aſſembly ſhall meet once every moneth.

Concerning members of the Provinciall Aſſembly.

THe Provinciall Aſſembly ſhall be conſtituted of members ſent from every Claſſis within the Province.

The number of the members ſent from each Claſſis ſhall be ſo proportioned, as that the Provinciall Aſſembly may be more in number then any Claſſicall Presbytery within that Porvince. And to that end there ſhall be at leaſt two Miniſters, and foure Ruling Elders out of every Claſſis. And that where there ſhall be need, the number may be increaſed, as to the perſons appointed for the bounding of the Provinciall Aſſembly ſhall ſeeme meet. Provided, that the number

number doe not exceed nine of each, Miniſters and Ruling-Elders, from any one Claſſis. And that there alwaies be two Ruling-Elders to one Miniſter. That the Provinciall Aſſembly being conſtituted, ſhall meet twice every yeere, the firſt meeting ſhall be determined by the perſons appointed for the bounding of the Provinciall and Claſſicall Aſſemblies.

Concerning the Nationall Aſſembly.

THat the Nationall aſſembly ſhall be conſtituted of members ſent from the ſeverall Provinces aforeſaid, the number of the members from each Province to the Nationall Aſſembly ſhall be two Miniſters, and foure Ruling-Elders. The Nationall Aſſembly is to meet when they ſhall be ſummoned by Parliament, and to ſit and continue as the Parliament ſhall order, and not otherwiſe.

FINIS.